



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor • Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor • S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

IMPORTANT NOTICE

September 6, 2005

Dear Maryland WIC Vendor:

This office has received notification from the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Nutrition Service (USDA, FNS) that due to the displacement of WIC Participants in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana caused by hurricane Katrina, WIC checks issued to participants in those states are to be accepted by WIC vendors nationwide. **This policy is in effect until September 30, 2005. We will provide immediate notification should this policy be extended by USDA, FNS.**

Maryland WIC vendors are to accept these checks for the items prescribed on them and process them in the same manner in which Maryland WIC checks are processed. If the customer is a WIC Participant from any of these states and is without a WIC identification folder, the check should still be accepted. We expect that Maryland WIC Local Agencies will be certifying out of state individuals as quickly as possible making it unlikely that Maryland WIC vendors will encounter out of state WIC checks. However, in the event that you do encounter out of state WIC participants, we ask your cooperation in accepting these checks and in advising these customers to contact the Office of the Maryland WIC Program at 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) so that they may be referred to the appropriate Local WIC Agency for certification.

As all of us have been made painfully aware, the effects of hurricane Katrina are likely to be felt nationwide. We appreciate the role Maryland WIC vendors might play in helping storm victims cope with this catastrophe. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258 or 1-800-242-4WIC.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Knolhoff, MPH, Director
Office of the Maryland WIC Program

cc: Local WIC Agencies

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH • TTY for Disabled - Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us